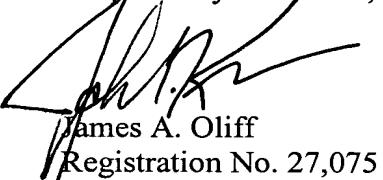


REMARKS

Claims 28-55 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-27 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 28-55 are added. No new matter is added.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John S. Kern
Registration No. 42,719

JAO:JSK/lbg

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: December 9, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 1-27 are canceled.

Claims 28-55 are added.